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Nebraska

Weekly Weather & Crop Report



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Environmental Science Services Admin
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Nebraska Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending 6/3/74

WEATHER

Temperatures averaged slightly above normal for the period with only brief cooling during the mid portion. Precipitation fell over the entire State with rainfall amounts averaging from a quarter inch to an inch and a half.

CROPS

Locally turbulent thundershower and hail activity mid-week caused severe damage to crops. Three inches of hail on the ground was reported in Morrill and Garden Counties. Damaging hail was also reported in surrounding Panhandle counties and northeastern areas of Nebraska. Extensive lodging of wheat occurred in these areas. Light frost was reported in Box Butte County at mid-week.

Winter wheat condition is reported as fair in 12% of the counties, good in 70% and excellent in 18%. A year ago 17% were fair, 75% good and 8% excellent. About 95% of the wheat crop is headed. Wheat streak mosaic is widespread in Hitchcock, Furnas and surrounding counties and is spotty over various other areas in Nebraska. Drought conditions prevail in the Panhandle and southwestern counties. Wheat fields are virtually burning up in some of these drought areas. Rainfall in much of western Nebraska is 2 inches or more below normal for the year. Wheat yields are being affected due to downy brome and mustard infestations, drought conditions and recent hail storms.

Corn planting is almost 100% completed. Normal for this date is 95%. Some farmers are replanting due to last week's rain storm and erosion. In Central and Eastern Nebraska, corn is 6 to 8 inches high. Farmers are cultivating corn. Corn fields in western Nebraska are slow in germinating due to dry conditions, strong blowing winds and the recent hail storms. Most irrigation ditches and wells are running day and night.

Sorghum is 70% planted, about the same as last year and near normal. Soybeans are 60% planted, compared to 72%

the previous year; 65% is the normal at this date. Soybeans are up in early planted acreages.

Alfalfa and wild hay conditions remained about the same as last week's conditions. Alfalfa hay condition is 10% excellent, 54% good, 33% fair and 3% poor. About 35% of the first crop has been cut. Most fields with alfalfa weevil infestations were cut early. New infestations have occurred in some areas while other areas have peaked out. Reports indicate 40% losses in some areas with heavy weevil infestation. Some fields of second cutting alfalfa are showing signs of alfalfa weevil infestation. Some chemicals for spraying alfalfa fields are in short supply. Wild hay condition is 12% excellent, 67% good, 19% fair, 2% poor.

GENERAL

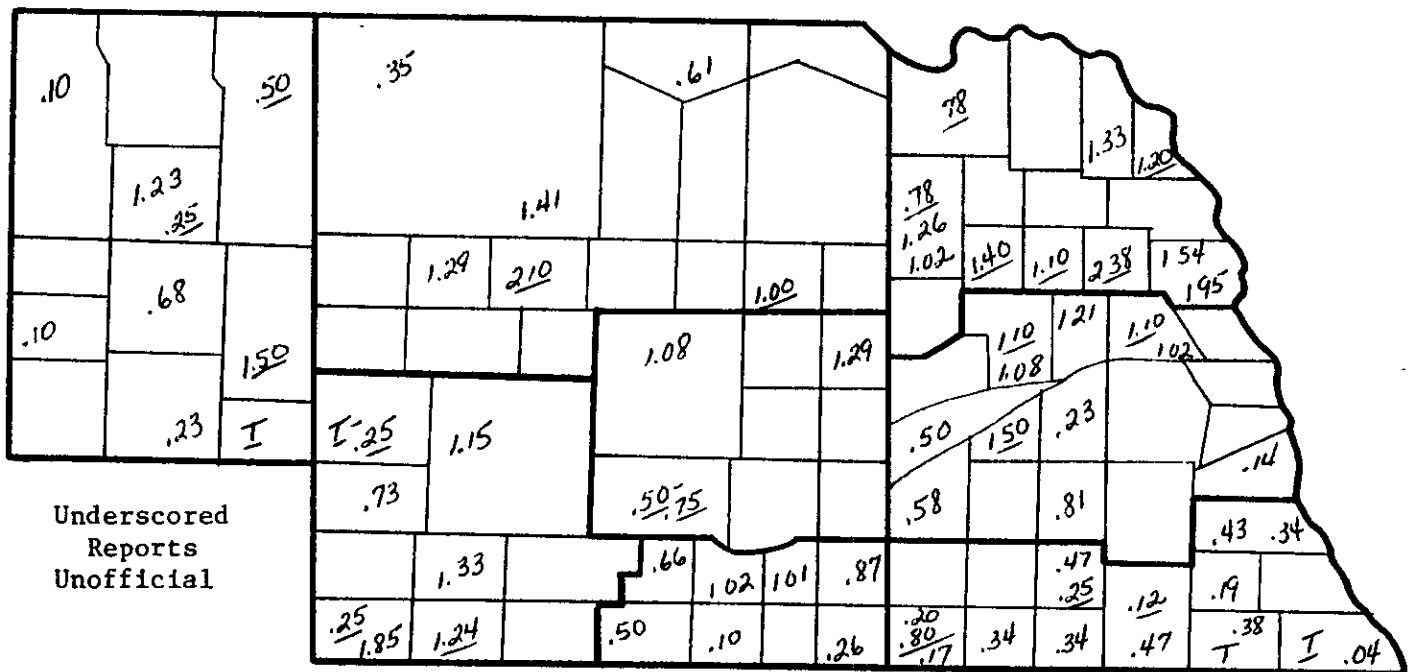
Nebraska farmers and ranchers had nearly 6 days suitable for fieldwork during the survey week (May 25-31). The main activities were fertilizing, planting row crops, rotary hoeing, cutting alfalfa, cultivating, spraying, branding, fencing, etc. Soil moisture conditions improved from last week due to more generalized rainfall Statewide. Topsoil moisture supplies are 66% adequate, 6% surplus and 28% short. Western Nebraska continues to have drought conditions. Panhandle farmers have irrigated most sugar beet fields and are beginning to irrigate more corn acreages. Some sugar beet fields were damaged during the past week from hail storms. Subsoil moisture supplies are 7% surplus, 77% adequate, 16% short.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range feed supplies are 5% surplus, 81% adequate and 14% short. The Sandhills and Panhandle regions showed some decline.

Livestock is in good condition. There were more pink eye reports this week but is still no major problem. Calf scours in areas of western Nebraska are a bit more severe than normal. Ranchers have begun branding, vaccinating, spraying and sorting cattle for summer grazing.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1974



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING 6:00 P.M. SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1974

Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches <u>1/</u>
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	86	32	61	--	.06
	Scottsbluff	91	37	62	+2	.55
	Sidney	--	--	--	--	--
NC	Burwell	--	--	--	--	--
	Valentine	84	39	60	-1	.40
NE	Norfolk	86	46	65	+1	1.36
	Sioux City	88	48	67	+2	.39
CEN	Grand Island	93	46	70	+5	.21
EC	Lincoln	87	48	67	+1	1.43
	Omaha	88	43	67	0	.24
SW	Imperial	92	42	65	--	.10
	North Platte	87	40	63	0	.21

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.

Precipitation, April 1 - May 31, 1974

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week.....	.50	.80	1.30	.90	.70	.90	.60	.30
Total since April 1.....	2.30	4.60	6.90	4.40	7.20	2.80	4.70	6.70
Normal since April 1....	4.78	5.37	5.98	5.74	6.09	5.12	5.76	6.58

U.S. Department of Agriculture
211 Federal Building, Box 81069
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501
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